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Action

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PRIORITY

DEPCIRTEL 517

Embassy believes GOC would be receptive to actions to limit Castro subversion in Caribbean area. However, some question as to how much formality GOC would wish attach to any arrangements agreed upon. Colombians frequently reluctant to be considered "Caribbean nation" and usually prefer company of bigger nations such as Argentina or Brazil. May also raise legal questions as to regional agreements within OAS. GOC agreement more likely to extent arrangements may be informal and de facto working agreements on several points mentioned. Embassy believes that GOC be quite receptive to air-sea surveillance of area near its coast. This connection worth noting that Colombian navy has been interested in naval intelligence and shipping control agreement now being considered by SOAM navies and which was drafted by SOAM navy representatives at COMFIFTEEN conference in Panama in July. This conference stemmed from earlier American CNO conference in Chile in March. Might be practical extend this agreement into special activity in Caribbean.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/ODD/MR

DEARBORN

aa/8

REVIEWED BY

DATE 12/1/68

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